



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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## C-SPAN Announces 2023 StudentCam Documentary Winners Awards \$100,000 in Cash Prizes

*Student changemakers nationwide tackle topics that are important to them  
Healthcare and environment top two issues addressed*



*Parim Shah and Nimay Sharma will receive \$5,000 for the Grand Prize documentary, "Where's My Data? Data Privacy and its Real World Impact."*

**WASHINGTON (March 15, 2023)** – C-SPAN announces the winners of the 2023 StudentCam documentary competition, in which nearly 3,000 students from around the country participated. Again this year, 150 cash prizes totaling \$100,000 will be awarded to students and teachers.

The competition, now in its 19th year, asked students to engage in a national conversation on the challenges our country is facing with the theme: **"If you were a newly elected member of Congress, which issue would be your first priority and why?"** Through this project-based learning experience, students explored multiple perspectives on topics that are important to them and considered solutions to address them.

The 2023 grand prize winners are Parim Shah and Nimay Sharma, students at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School in Germantown, Maryland, where C-SPAN is available through its partner Comcast. They will receive \$5,000 for the documentary, "Where's My Data? Data Privacy and its Real World Impact." This documentary will air on C-SPAN on April 21 at 6:50 a.m. ET and throughout the day.

In cooperation with its cable television partners, C-SPAN invited all middle and high school students to enter the documentary contest. In response, C-SPAN received over 1,500 entries from 40 states, Washington, D.C. and Abu Dhabi. The most popular topics addressed were:

- Health Care (16%)
- Environment (14%)
- Education (12%)
- Economy (10%)
- Gun Violence and Firearm Policy (8%)

"For the first time in the history of the competition, we asked students to envision themselves in a position of power, as newly elected members of Congress," said Craig McAndrew, director of C-SPAN Education Relations. "As each participant considered which issue would be their first priority and why, they creatively wove detailed research with expert interviews and proposed actions to address their concerns. Capitalizing on the platform of short film, these passionate young people masterfully showcased the fruits of active learning, and we are excited to share their work with the country."

High school students competed on a regional level, with the United States divided into three regions: West, Central and East. Middle school students were judged on a national basis. The grand prize winner was selected nationally among all regions and grade levels.

Carson Collins, a home-schooled student in Austin, Texas — where C-SPAN is available through Spectrum — will receive \$3,000 as a first prize winner in the West region for the documentary, "A Perilous Purchase: CCP Ownership of U.S. Land." This documentary will air on C-SPAN on April 20 at 6:50 a.m. ET and throughout the day.

Sophia Smith and Jacob Shaddock, students at Jenks High School in Jenks, Oklahoma, will receive \$3,000 as first prize winners in the Central region for the documentary, "Unearthing the Options," about the future of death care in the United States. In Jenks, C-SPAN is available through Cox Communications. This documentary will air on C-SPAN on April 19 at 6:50 a.m. ET and throughout the day.

Teresa Fang, a student at East Chapel Hill High School in Chapel Hill, North Carolina — where C-SPAN is available through Spectrum — will receive \$3,000 as a first prize winner in the East region for the documentary, "MONEY TALKS: Inside the Inflation Surge." This documentary will air on C-SPAN on April 18 at 6:50 a.m. ET and throughout the day.

Benjamin Kurian, a student at Olentangy Liberty Middle School in Powell, Ohio, is a national first prize winner in the middle school division and will receive \$3,000 for the documentary, "Losing a Generation," about the opioid crisis. This video was also recognized as "Fan Favorite" receiving over 8,100 of more than 21,400 votes that were cast by the public between March 5 and March 12. Kurian will receive an additional \$500 in prize money. Spectrum makes C-SPAN available in Powell. This documentary will air on C-SPAN on April 17 at 6:50 a.m. ET and throughout the day.

C-SPAN is funded by America's cable television companies, its partners in StudentCam.

In addition to the grand prize and first prize winners, C-SPAN is awarding 16 second prizes, 32 third prizes and 97 honorable mention prizes. These winning videos will receive cash awards of \$1,500, \$750 and \$250, respectively. The StudentCam competition has awarded over \$1 million in prizes since 2004.

Each winning video is available to view at [www.studentcam.org](http://www.studentcam.org) and may be used in a broadcast with attribution to C-SPAN.

The annual StudentCam competition is sponsored by the C-SPAN Education Foundation. Videos were evaluated by a panel of educators and C-SPAN representatives based on the thoughtful examination of the competition's theme, quality of expression, inclusion of varying sides of the documentary's topic and effective incorporation of C-SPAN programming.

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**About C-SPAN Classroom:**

C-SPAN Classroom uses the network's programs on public affairs, coverage of Congress, nonfiction books and American history to create FREE digital tools for teachers, students, and the public to use in classrooms, in projects or for research. C-SPAN Classroom's website provides social studies teachers with access to thousands of free resources, including short current events videos, Lesson Plans and Bell Ringers, plus Constitution Clips and On This Day in History events. The education team also hosts the biweekly [C-SPAN in the Classroom Podcast](#), available on the [C-SPAN Now app](#) or wherever you listen to podcasts. Engage with [C-SPAN Classroom](#) on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

**About C-SPAN:**

C-SPAN, the public affairs network providing Americans with unfiltered access to congressional proceedings, was created in 1979 as a public service by the cable television industry and is now funded through fees paid by cable and satellite companies that provide C-SPAN programming. C-SPAN connects with millions of Americans through its three commercial-free TV networks, C-SPAN Radio, [C-SPAN Podcasts](#), the [C-SPAN Now app](#), [C-SPAN.org](#) and various social media platforms. The network's video-rich website contains over 270,000 hours of searchable and shareable content. Engage with C-SPAN on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [TikTok](#) and [YouTube](#), and stay connected through weekly and daily [newsletters](#).

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